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Draft country programme document**

Thailand

Summary

The draft country programme document for Thailand is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of $5,000,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $22,500,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2007 to 2011.

* E/ICEF/2006/10

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2002/4 (E/ICEF/2002/8/Rev.1), the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website in October 2006, together with the summary results matrix. It will then be approved by the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2007.

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Basic data[*] *(2004 unless otherwise noted)*	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	18.6
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	21
Underweight (%, moderate and severe)	10
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	33
Primary school attendance (% net, male/female)	87/84
Primary schoolchildren reaching grade 5 (%)	
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	85
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)	1.5
Child work (%, children 5-14 years old)	
GNI per capita (US$)	2 540
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	98
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	96

[*] More comprehensive country data on children and women are available at www.unicef.org.

The situation of children and women

1. Thailand is on track to achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals well before 2015. The percentage of the population living in poverty has dropped from over 30 per cent in 1990 to 11 per cent in 2004, and the proportion of underweight children has fallen by nearly half. Thailand's child mortality rate is now among the lowest in the region. Most children are in school, universal primary school enrolment is possible to achieve by the end of the decade, and annual new HIV infections have fallen by more than 80 per cent since 1991. Progress is also being made towards gender equality. In 2004 the Government adopted even more ambitious targets for 2015, called "Millennium Development Goals-Plus", that go well beyond those agreed internationally. Both Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child were acceded to in early 2006.

2. New opportunities and economic progress have not benefited everyone equally. Wide disparities in socio-economic status are seen, particularly for certain groups in the border provinces. The most vulnerable include ethnic minorities, migrants, displaced persons, the unregistered and some 6 million people living in poverty.

3. Almost all socio-economic indicators are worse for these groups than for the majority. Around 900,000 girls and boys either do not enrol in primary school or enrol at a late age. Several hundred thousand children are without birth registration or a nationality, their development hindered, their risk increased of being subjected to exploitation, abuse and violence.

4. Socio-economic stress and the breakdown of traditional family structures because of HIV/AIDS and internal migration have led to new social problems, including drug abuse, violence and suicide, homelessness, sexual and economic exploitation, and trafficking. More than 1 million children are estimated to be in need of special protection, including orphaned children, children with disabilities, children who live or work on the street, child labourers and some 500,000 children

affected by HIV/AIDS. Although traditional causes of child death have declined significantly, road traffic accidents are now a major killer of children and young people. Avian influenza is expected to become endemic and is an emerging contributor to childhood illness and death.

5. Thailand's wealth relative to its poorer neighbours has fuelled massive migration. Most of the estimated 1.5 million migrant families, many in Thailand unofficially, are among the poorest in the country. Some 140,000 refugees from Myanmar live along the Thai-Myanmar border, awaiting a political solution.

6. There are signs of a resurgence of HIV/AIDS. Transmission among young people is increasing and now accounts for most of the estimated 17,000 new infections each year. Information, skills and services for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care are often inaccessible for the most vulnerable.

7. Flooding in the north and south, and drought in the agricultural north-east, are now annual events, which disproportionately affect the poor. The 2004 tsunami highlighted the challenges of ensuring children's rights in an emergency.

8. Thailand's Millennium Development Goals report, the National Plan of Action for Children and the UNICEF situation analysis all highlighted gaps and inconsistencies in data and information about children.

9. Under-implementation of national policies and plans at the subnational level is a major constraint to fulfilling the rights of disadvantaged children and women. The Government's ongoing decentralization process, which will assign 35 per cent of the national budget to the subdistrict level by 2007, is an opportunity to strengthen local capacities for children. Most vulnerable populations have different cultural or religious backgrounds, including language, which pose other challenges. In the far south, which has a large Muslim population, alternative approaches to social service delivery will be required.

10. Thailand is a middle-income country seeking to play a wider role in the region and beyond. As an emerging "donor of the south", Thailand is increasingly reaching out to other developing countries in support of human development and poverty reduction. In 2005, Thailand became the first country not a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to produce a Millennium Development Goal 8 report outlining its contribution to the global partnership for development.

11. In its 2006 review of Thailand's Second Report, the Committee on the Rights of the Child commended the country's progress on children's rights but highlighted the need to do more to ensure the rights of the most vulnerable. The Committee also provided extensive recommendations on further strengthening child protection systems.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2002-2006

Key results achieved

12. UNICEF advocacy, as well as technical and financial support for policy development, contributed to a stronger enabling environment for children's rights. This resulted in the development and adoption of new policies and legislation: a first-ever Child Protection Act; a Cabinet resolution on provision of education for non-Thai children in Thailand and children without birth documentation; guidelines for juvenile justice; and a directive calling upon broadcast media to devote at least 15 per cent of prime-time programming to children's and family issues. As a result, former policy and legislative gaps have now largely been filled, resulting in greater legal protection for children.

13. UNICEF contributed to a heightened awareness of children's rights through extensive support for child rights awareness training for politicians, teachers, police, justice workers and young people. An annual Child-Friendly Media Award for reporting on children's rights has helped promote increased media coverage of children's issues and stronger media alliances in furthering the cause of children.

14. Broader alliances and partnerships for children were developed, especially with the private sector, the media and individuals. The Private Sector Development programme increased fundraising to over $2 million annually, or around two thirds of the country programme's other resources, and brought more than 100,000 individuals and 50 locally based private companies into the partnership promoting the well-being of children.

15. Improved understanding of the situation of children resulted from UNICEF support for studies, surveys and evaluations. An updated situation analysis of children and young people was carried out, together with a specific analysis in the southern Muslim-majority provinces that included a survey of 1,000 young people. The findings of a child injury study showed drowning and accidents as leading causes of death, resulting in renewed national action for public awareness on child safety.

16. UNICEF, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), provided financial and technical assistance to the National Statistics Office to conduct Thailand's first-ever national multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) and to adopt *DevInfo* as the tool for tracking the situation of children in all 75 provinces. The MICS provided provincially disaggregated information for further advocacy on reducing disparities. UNICEF also collaborated with UNDP in the preparation of national and provincial Millennium Development Goal reports.

17. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to increasing child and youth participation in policymaking, planning and in implementation. More than 12,000 children and young people participated in the development of the National Plan of Action for Children, more than 10,000 young people have been involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and capacity-building, and young people have participated in media broadcasting in over half the country's provinces.

18. Through UNICEF technical and financial support, Thailand shared its best experiences in programming for children with other countries. More than 500 professionals from more than 20 countries have taken part in some 40 training courses and study visits. This has led to increased international and regional partnerships for children and application of Thailand's lessons learned in other countries. One example is the child-friendly schools initiative, which has expanded to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar and Nepal.

Lessons learned

19. A key lesson emphasized in Thailand's Millennium Development Goals report, the common country assessment (CCA) and the situation analysis, is the need to ensure that essential data and information are available on the situation of children — especially the most vulnerable children — for policymaking, programming and more effective advocacy. UNICEF has addressed this, together with UNDP, through renewed partnership with the National Statistics Office. The 2004 mid-term review (MTR) concluded that analysis of social policies affecting children needs to be given much greater emphasis.

20. Another important lesson emphasized during annual reviews and the MTR was the need for a more systematic approach to building national capacities to ensure greater and more sustainable impact. The MTR called for increased awareness of children's rights and improved planning and action for children at the subdistrict level to take advantage of the devolution of authority and budgets through decentralization. There is also a need to shift from traditional training approaches to broader institutional development. Lessons learned from the tsunami emergency showed that emergency preparedness must also be improved.

21. The MTR concluded that although there have been many good community-based experiences, greater geographic convergence is needed in the most vulnerable provinces and districts for improved impact. In line with MTR conclusions, UNICEF adjusted its geographic focus to include the Thailand-Myanmar border provinces, the southern provinces bordering Malaysia and the tsunami-affected provinces.

The country programme, 2007-2011

Summary budget table*

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Child protection	1 050	4 900	5 950
Education	450	4 100	4 550
HIV/AIDS	700	5 050	5 750
Local capacity-building	500	1 100	1 600
Social policy analysis and monitoring the goals	1 100	3 200	4 300
Advocacy and social mobilization	750	3 900	4 650
Future cooperation entity	200	250	450
Cross-sectoral costs	250	0	250
Total	**5 000**	**22 500**	**27 500**

* Activities in tsunami-affected provinces in 2007 and 2008 will be funded from emergency resources.

Preparation process

22. Country programme preparation was based on the CCA and the situation analysis, both completed in 2005, the 2004 MTR, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the United Nations Partnership Framework for Thailand (UNPAF). The UNPAF was finalized in March 2006 at a joint Government-United Nations Strategy Meeting, which also endorsed the proposed programme of cooperation. These took into consideration national priorities and development plans, especially progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Tenth National Socioeconomic Development Plan. The UNPAF and the proposed programme of cooperation also took into account the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and obligations under other treaty bodies. Consultations were held with relevant line Ministries and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners under the leadership of Thailand's International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA).

Goals, key results and strategies

23. The country programme's goal is to contribute to ensuring the rights of the most vulnerable while moving towards achievement of key Millennium Development Goals and Thailand's Millennium Development Goals-Plus targets so that, by 2011, (a) national laws and policies effectively respond to children's and women's rights; (b) systems for monitoring children's and women's rights are in place at all levels; (c) targeted programmes are implemented for the protection of vulnerable children, including those of ethnic minorities and from neighbouring countries; (d) HIV transmission among children and young people is reduced; (e) capacities at the subnational level for planning and action on children's rights are strengthened; (f) disaster preparedness and response is improved; and

(g) experiences and best practices in furthering children's rights are analysed, documented and shared with other countries through south-south cooperation.

24. The programme will have several main strategies, consistent with the UNPAF: (a) partnership with the Government, the United Nations country team, civil society, media and donors; (b) evidence-based advocacy and awareness-raising to leverage national resources for children and women; (c) technical assistance and capacity-building for law and policy development, standards-setting and monitoring; (d) building national capacities to monitor the evolving situation of children and to advocate for unfulfilled children's rights; (e) capacity-building for subnational authorities in planning and action for children; (f) strengthening the participation of children, young people and women, families and communities; and (g) improving access to information and behaviour-change communication.

25. Cross-cutting priorities will focus on reducing disparities, especially regarding child protection, education and HIV/AIDS. Emergency preparedness and response will be mainstreamed into all components of the programme. The programme will operate at three levels: (a) nationwide, for support to tracking the situation of children and for advocacy and fund-raising; (b) in 25 provinces, including provinces affected by the tsunami and those that have high disparities or children who are particularly vulnerable due to cross-border migration and border conflict; and (c) at the subregional level, where the programme will support cooperation with neighbouring countries through the operationalization of cross-border memorandums of understanding, for example, on the prevention of trafficking.

26. All programme components will converge in the 25 vulnerable provinces, where approaches will be documented and shared for advocacy and for informing future decision-making. Models will be demonstrated in several areas: (a) capacity-building, participatory planning, monitoring and service delivery for hard-to-reach children; (b) community-based protection for children; (c) child-friendly learning at home and in schools; (d) community-based care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS; (e) positive family practices, including prevention of avian influenza; and (f) the participation of children and young people in local planning. Regular programme activities will be funded from regular and other resources, while activities in tsunami-affected provinces will be funded from emergency resources.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

27. The new country programme of cooperation supports the priorities of the Tenth National Economic and Social Development Plan, Thailand's Millennium Development Goals-Plus, and other national plans.

28. The UNDAF guided preparation of the proposed programme, which closely links with the following UNDAF outcomes: (a) increased access to and utilization of quality social services and protection, especially for vulnerable groups and in underserved areas; (b) the effective response of subnational administrations to people's rights in a participatory and transparent manner; (c) increased access to, and utilization of, comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support services for HIV and AIDS; and (d) increased south-south cooperation that effectively delivers technical and financial support to other countries.

38. At the national level, the programme will support policy development and advocacy for universal prevention, care, support and treatment and for changes in awareness, understanding and attitudes. At the subnational level, the programme will develop effective models, establish standards and help encourage demand from beneficiaries in order to draw down resources and support policymaking. The programme will build capacities of interprovincial (regional) young people's networks.

39. Main partners include the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, as well as NGOs working individually or as part of HIV/AIDS networks. The UNPAF provides for a joint programme in HIV/AIDS, and the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS will provide the overall framework for coordination.

40. The **local capacity-building** programme aims to build capacities of local government, families and communities in child-friendly planning and action in the 25 priority provinces. It will develop model approaches to reduce disparities and fulfil the unfulfilled rights of vulnerable children and women and share lessons learned and best practices for wider application. It has several key results: (a) 25 vulnerable districts operate new approaches to planning and action for children's rights; (b) families practice positive behaviours for child development and protection, including child safety and the prevention of avian influenza; and (c) best practices are shared within Thailand and beyond through south-south cooperation.

41. The added value of this programme is the demonstration of coordinated multi-sectoral action for children and the identification of new approaches to reducing disparities. The *local capacities* project will build capacities of multi-disciplinary district and provincial teams involving local authorities, families and communities. It will leverage resources for children within subnational plans and ensure delivery of a package of essential services and information for the most vulnerable children and women. Key outcomes for children will be in HIV/AIDS, education, child protection, health and nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

42. The *technical cooperation among developing countries* project (TCDC) will support the sharing of Thailand's experiences and best practices in social development with neighbouring countries and beyond. Best practices will documented and shared in health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, education, child rights, participatory planning and action, and other areas as they emerge from this subnational programme.

43. The Ministry of the Interior will be the main partner for the capacity-building project. Considering the high level of decentralization of this programme, local authorities will be key facilitators for implementation. The TCDC project will be managed by TICA, and benefit from close collaboration with UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. A joint UNICEF-UNPAF programme on technical cooperation is envisaged.

44. The **social policy analysis and monitoring the goals** programme will focus on support to ensuring responsiveness to the situation of vulnerable children and women in national and provincial socio-economic planning. The programme will carry out social policy analysis and policy advocacy and support improved availability of data and information and strengthened national capacities for emergency response. The following are expected key results: (a) social policies are

analysed and their impact on children is known by policymakers and the public; (b) national and subnational systems involving government, civil society and children, are in place to monitor and evaluate the situation of children and women, especially the most vulnerable; and (c) vulnerable provinces have updated emergency preparedness and response plans that respond to the needs of children, young people and women.

45. The programme will support research institutions in the analysis of social policies for children, including studies on decentralization and migration. It will support Thailand Provincial Development Info (TPDInfo), the Thai version of *DevInfo*, for tracking key indicators. In vulnerable provinces and districts, it will carry out baseline and follow-up assessments to supplement routine information and evaluate overall progress. This information will be used to prepare annual or biannual national and provincial reports on the situation of children.

46. Main partners will be the National and Provincial Statistics Offices, the National Economic and Social Development Board and selected line Ministries. A joint programme with UNDP on monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals-Plus targets is envisaged.

47. The programme will also support regular monitoring and evaluation through the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan and the updating of UNICEF emergency preparedness and response plans.

48. The **advocacy and social mobilization** programme, employing a mix of advocacy, social mobilization and media strategies, will promote widespread and sustained support for children's rights among the Government, civil society and the private sector. One aim will be to increase awareness of the UNICEF mission in Thailand among the public. Advocacy and information materials will be designed for use by the Future Cooperation Entity programme for local fund-raising. Quality corporate communication will include support for international media, National Committee's for UNICEF and donor missions. Nationally, the programme will have two key results: (a) local media regularly and ethically report on development challenges for children; and (b) 60 per cent of the public is familiar with UNICEF and its work in Thailand. In the 25 priority provinces, the expected key result is that families, communities and key decision makers are aware of children's rights and their implications for daily life and work.

49. The *advocacy and awareness-raising for rights and goals* project will support increased awareness of children's rights nationally, focusing on the 25 high-disparity provinces. The *child-friendly media mobilization* project will aim to make the local media a proactive partner in the realization of children's rights and promote improved media policies on children's programming. Technical and financial support will be provided for research on the current media environment for children and for child-rights training for journalists. Young people will be assisted in improving their media skills, and support will be given to policy development to institutionalize young people's participation in school and local media.

50. Main partners will be the relevant line ministries, NGOs, the media and other United Nations agencies.

51. The **future cooperation entity** programme will consolidate and increase local fund-raising and will also prepare and manage a transition plan for future UNICEF cooperation, with two key expected results: (a): during 2007-2011, $15 million is

raised locally as a contribution to other resources, and (b) by 2009, the future modalities for UNICEF cooperation in Thailand are defined and agreed, and by 2011 are partially in place and operational.

52. The *private sector leveraging resources* project will consolidate and expand individual and corporate partnerships contributing to funding for the proposed programme and for increasing awareness of children's rights. The project will help to increase awareness of the situation of children in developing countries and to pave the way for future financial contributions to UNICEF work in those countries. The *future cooperation entity* project will proactively define and plan the future presence of UNICEF in the country. As a middle-income country, Thailand is requesting a different type of development partnership. This fact, together with expected future reductions in UNICEF regular resources allocations, will necessitate a different form of cooperation and UNICEF presence.

53. **Cross-sectoral costs**. These will cover implementation not attributable to individual programmes, including part of the cost of security equipment, operating costs and capacity-building of national and international UNICEF staff.

Major partnerships

54. The main programme partnerships are described above. The country programme will be implemented in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies, Government counterparts at all levels, and civil society, including the media and private sector companies, to support the UNPAF and progress towards Thailand's Millennium Development Goals-Plus.

55. UNICEF will maintain close contact with funding partners, including Governments and National Committees, to maximize resources and benefit from the partners' inputs into reviews and assessments. This work will include facilitation of donor visits. Special emphasis will be given to developing relationships with corporate and individual donors in Thailand to leverage their financial and broader support for children's and women's rights.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

56. The country programme will be managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/TICA. Programme components will be managed by the relevant Ministries: the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (child protection); the Ministry of Education; the national HIV/AIDS authority; and the Ministry of the Interior (local capacity-building).

57. The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will include mid-year and annual reviews with all partners, informed by field visits, evaluations and surveys, including an assessment of the local capacity-building strategy in 2009. Indicators of programme progress will be tracked in TPDInfo. The situation analysis of children and young people will be updated in 2009 in conjunction with an update of the CCA. A 2009 MTR, in conjunction with a review of the UNPAF, will guide programme adjustments up to 2011.